

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the second paragraph on page 15 of the specification and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the change being made.

Any of the zones **220**, **222** and **224** may be of interest for measurement purposes. By way of example, zone **220** is typically of interest for the measurement of total hemoglobin in the sample, and capture zone **222** is typically of interest for the measurement of glycated hemoglobin in the sample. Eluate zone **224** may also be of interest for the measurement of non-glycated hemoglobin in the sample. An LED is positioned beneath such a zone of interest, or multiple LEDs are positioned beneath such zones of interest, respectively, for measurement purposes. Such an LED is used to obtain an optical signal that relates to the amount of the analyte of interest. The test strip platform **60** of the meter device **100** has one or more opening(s) or window(s) (not shown) corresponding to one or more zones(s) of interest, respectively, such that there is a clear optical path between the LED(s) and the zone(s) of interest. Light striking the zone(s) of interest is absorbed, transmitted or reflected by the sample **200** **700** at the zone(s) of interest, such that a portion of the light is transmitted or reflected toward a light detector, as further described herein. The light, or optical signal, is received by the light detector, whereupon it is converted to an electrical signal that is sent to a microprocessor, preferably, a microprocessor internal to the meter **100**, for the processing of the measurement to obtain a result of interest to the user, such as a ratiometric relation (for example, a simple percentage relation) of the amount of glycated hemoglobin (i.e., lysed hemoglobin that is glycated) relative to the amount of total hemoglobin (i.e., total lysed hemoglobin) in the sample.

Please delete the third paragraph on page 23 of the specification and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the change being made.

A power source **560** **570** sufficient for operating the optical system **550** or any of its various components, such as the light detector and/or any LED(s), may be part

of the optical system 550 or the meter device 100, although one or more of the light detector and the LED(s) may already have one or more associated power source(s) for self-powered operation, or some other power source arrangement may be used. Further, a power source 640 sufficient for operating the electronic system 650 or any of its various components may be provided, such as a power source 640 operable communication with the on/off switch 600 of the system. Alternatively, the microprocessor 610 may have a power source sufficient for operating the electronic system 650, or some other power source arrangement may be used. Naturally, a suitable power source 660 for operating both the optical system 550 and for operating the electronic system 650 may be used, as schematically depicted in Figure 8. Preferably, any power source used in the meter device 100 is of sufficient capacity for its purpose while being sufficiently small or compact, such as on the order of an AAA battery or a small solar cell, for example, as is consistent with a preferably small overall footprint for the meter device.